

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET



SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Abidjan Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

0 PM-11

DATE

October 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.

C/Ops

21 Nov 88 [Signature]

2.

3.

C/E&PS

11/12/88 [Signature]

4.

DD/FBIS

22 Nov 88 [Signature]

5.

~~D/13B13~~

6.

7.

PO/RA

11/20/88 [Signature]

8.

SA/CD

11/23/88 [Signature]

9.

DC/AS

11/29/88 [Signature]

10.

C/PERS

[Signature]

C/AS

11.

30

[Signature]

C/B&F/AS

[Signature]

* Personal Security

12.

13.

14.

C/AG

12/12/88 [Signature]

15.

Exec. Reg.

MBA-2621-88

1 November 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--October 1988

I. GENERAL

The Embassy JAO on the 25th issued a security advisory warning of an "upswing in crime in Cote d'Ivoire." It mentioned muggings and robberies in which Europeans had been killed, and attributed the crime wave to the country's ever-worsening economic recession. The advisory made recommendations on personal security in Abidjan and the surrounding area, as well as on vehicle and residential security. On the 24th the residence of the Voice of America's West Africa correspondent was attacked--for the second time in a year--by three armed men, who stole several thousand dollars worth of valuables. An unidentified American woman was beaten with a pistol when she failed to comply promptly with robbers' demands during a restaurant holdup, a recurring event in recent months. The bureau this month completed two security enhancements: the installation of additional external lighting and a closed-circuit television system. 50

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Further talks between the RSA, Angola, Cuba, and the United States on the situation in Angola and Namibia were held in New York on 7-8 October. Abidjan bureau monitored an AFP report stating that another round of talks would be held in Geneva in October, but a later AFP report, citing "informed sources," indicated that this meeting had been postponed indefinitely. The RSA however, did make two significant diplomatic moves involving countries in our coverage area. On the 1st Pieter Botha traveled to Zaire and met with head of state Mobutu, and on the 15th, Pieter and Roelof Botha stopped over in Ivory Coast for talks with President Houphouet-Boigny. Ivorian media, which had not announced this sensitive visit, only broke their silence after the departure of the Bothas with reports on the national radio; a short article in the government-owned newspaper; and a special TV report, which prompted the bureau's first VSL in more than 2 years.

2. Chad and Libya on the 3d issued a joint communique reestablishing diplomatic relations and accepting the September 1987 cease-fire that ended armed hostilities. Later in the month, Chad's President Habre named an ambassador to Libya, who arrived in Tripoli on 31 October. Libya did not limit its October diplomatic offensive to Chad. During the month Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, the secretary of the Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau, visited Liberia, Gabon, and Mali. In addition, Zaire's Mobutu agreed to restore diplomatic relations with Libya, broken in 1982, after meeting with an Al-Qadhdhafi envoy.

B. Lateral Services

On the 22d the bureau received a meessage from the U.S. Ambassador to Chad expressing gratitude for FBIS reporting on Chad. He wrote: "FBIS items were very useful to me as I prepared for this assignment. Since my arrival on October 8, my staff has confirmed to me the value they, too, find in FBIS coverage of the Chadian scene, foreign and domestic. When events that affect us take place in Khartoum, Lome, Paris, and elsewhere, we rely on FBIS for valuable, timely information; and you provide it." C/OPS conveyed FBIS Headquarters' endorsement of the Ambassador's comments.

C. Cruising

1. In response to a request from BBC, the bureau's Spanish language monitor engaged in a cruising project to find a new radio station, "Africa 2000," in Spanish, from Equatorial Guinea. Spot checks were made throughout the bureau's operating hours for a 1-week period but no Spanish language programming was monitored on or near the new program's frequency.

2. Bureau monitors did a 1-day cruising survey of Cotonou (Benin) Domestic Service and prepared a detailed report of their findings, which included several newscasts in French and a schedule of casts in local languages.

D. Technical

1. The 10KVA UPS from Headquarters FED arrived early in the month. Because of its large size and weight, the equipment is temporarily stored in the car-port while the installation area is being renovated. Batteries have been removed and are being stored in the generator room, where they can be kept charged.

2. The bureau also received from FED a Scientific Atlanta Digital Analyzer and X-Y display unit.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE

Building and Grounds

Security

1. Bureau security was enhanced this month with the installation of a closed-circuit television system. The system comprises three cameras -- one focused on the front gate, one on the front door, and one on the back yard -- and two monitors -- one near the editors' desk and one in the administrative assistant's office.

Security

2. The exterior lighting system at the bureau was reconfigured with additional lights placed on the new perimeter wall and on the building sides. The older fixtures, many of which were severely damaged by weather, were removed and stored in the basement.

2065

3. The bureau this month took possession of a new Mitsubishi 10-passenger van to replace the older Peugeot station wagon, which was turned in to the GSO motor pool.

IV. VISITS

1. [REDACTED] DC/OFS, TDY'ed in Abidjan from the STAT 9th to the 11th on a management inspection visit. He attended a country team meeting at the Embassy and met with Ambassador Kux and other Embassy officials. Don and the bureau chief were guests at a dinner party given by the Ambassador at his residence for new arrivals. At the bureau he inspected the facilities in detail and met with the American staff and then with all bureau personnel. A bureau party was held in his honor.

2. Junior Editor [REDACTED] and family returned from STAT R&R in CONUS on the 1st.

3. Deputy Bureau Chief [REDACTED] and family departed STAT for R&R to CONUS on the 6th.

4. London Bureau Associate Editor [REDACTED] STAT completed TDY editorial assistance to the bureau on 7th.

[REDACTED] STAT
Chief, FBIS Abidjan Bureau

cc: C/MB
C/LD